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# RATS

*Risk Assessment Teleconference for Superfund*

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**Risk Assessment Teleconference for Superfund (RATS)  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, October 14, 1992**

**Participants**

Region 1	Ann-Marie Burke	Region 7	Dave Crawford
Region 2	Pat Laformara		Chuck Arnold (Missouri)
	Mark Maddaloni		Cherri Baysinger-Daniel (Missouri)
	Larry Tannenbaum	Region 8	Susan Griffin
	Maggie Breville	Region 9	Dan Stralka
Region 3	Dawn Iovan	Region 10	Carol Sweeney
	Deb Forman		Pat Cirone
Region 4	Solomon Pollard	ECAO-Cin	Cindy Sonich-Mullin
	Kevin Koporec		Ken Poirier
	Glenn Adams	HQ	Monique Currie (TIB)
	Julie Keller		Melissa Shapiro (TIB)
Region 5	Amy Palka		Charalingayya Hiremath (OHEA)
	Andrew Podowski		Edie Findeis (EMS, Inc.)
Region 6	Jon Rauscher		Jan Walters (EMS, Inc.)
	Ghassan Khory		

**Announcements**

- Monique Currie (TIB) asked that anyone having a problem receiving their RATS agendas call Janine Dinan at (703) 603-8824 or Jim Konz at (703) 603-8841.
- Melissa Shapiro (TIB) announced that the EPA/ATSDR Mid-Level Managers Forum is developing a comparative paper on Health Assessments and Risk Assessments. A draft of this paper should be ready for distribution in December. Those with questions regarding this paper, can call Melissa at (703) 603-8799.
- Cindy Sonich Mullin (ECAO-Cin) announced that she has a new report on the types of calls the Health Risk Technical Support Center is receiving regarding risk assessment at Superfund sites. She is going to distribute this report, and would like comments from the Regions during the next RATS teleconference.
- Monique Currie noted that Rich Guimond has signed a memorandum in response to an inquiry from the Motor Vehicle Manufacturing Association about EPA's use of Monte Carlo simulation in risk assessment. [A copy of the memo is enclosed with these minutes.]

**Update—Groundwater Forum—Filtration**

Dawn Iovan (Region 3) reported on the first teleconference of the Groundwater Forum's Interdisciplinary Workgroup on Ground-Water Quality Sampling and Field Filtering. The workgroup was developed to discuss filtered versus unfiltered monitoring well samples, but the workgroup members decided to switch

their focus to sampling techniques and protocols instead of field filtering. A popular stance is that particulate matter is being collected in monitoring well samples as a result of the wells being pumped at a higher rate than their yield. Perhaps if wells were purged correctly, filtration would not be needed. The workgroup also decided not to involve the risk assessors as active participants in the group because they do not have a firm platform on the role of the workgroup as of yet. The workgroup will seek advice from the risk assessors, but will not be necessary for them to attend all of the teleconferences. Once a platform for the workgroup is developed, this may change.

### **Remediation of Chromium Contamination at Superfund Sites**

Solomon Pollard (Region 4) reported on chromium cleanup standards at Superfund sites. He reported that the state of Florida recently promulgated a 52 ppm soil excavation standard for chromium and decided it would be applied to all Superfund sites. The first site at which the standard was to be applied was a metal and bumper electroplating site.

However, EPA challenged Florida's calculations — based partly on the airborne dust concentrations used — and proposed a standard of 519 ppm. The state of Florida agreed with this number, and applied it to the metal and bumper electroplating site. The case is outlined in an October 9 memo sent out by Elmer Akin to all RATS members. Anyone that has not received this memo may contact Solomon at (404) 347-3866 for a copy.

Solomon asked for comment from other RATS participants about their experiences dealing with chromium risk in hopes of developing a Regional consensus on this sticky issue. Several participants reported that they use "the 10% assumption."

Pat Laformara (Region 2) noted that Khin Thaung, the Inorganic Section Chief in Chemistry at the Region 3 CRL Laboratory in Annapolis, is conducting research on chromium in collaboration with other chemists in Las Vegas, New Jersey, and other EPA research labs. Pat said she would call Khin to get an update on her research and present this to the group at next month's teleconference.

Mark Maddaloni (Region 2) said that New Jersey has proposed standards for soil and other media, but that chromium was omitted because New Jersey's extensive chromium contamination is so difficult to address. He also reported that New Jersey has sponsored symposia on chromium risk assessment. One symposium dealt with chromium contact dermatitis as a critical endpoint. Although EPA is reluctant to adopt this endpoint, using it can produce reasonable levels, *i.e.*, 10 ppm CrVI and 75-100 ppm total chromium. At one Region 3 site, the contact dermatitis approach was used and a cleanup level of 75 ppm was agreed upon. Another symposium on inhalation carcinogenesis was convened. This approach also can produce numbers similar to those derived using the contact dermatitis approach. Mark noted that a former EPA employee, Linda Cullen, now at the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, attended the symposia, and may be able to answer questions. Her telephone number is (609) 633-1348.

Carol Sweeney (Region 10) noted the weak link in the contact dermatitis approach, *i.e.*, that once sensitized, very low levels are required to get a reaction. But a much higher level may be required to sensitize an individual to start with.

A participant asked for others' perceptions of an "expert panel report" published in *Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology* and in the *Journal of Toxicology* that claimed that 75 ppm CrVI and 1000 ppm total chromium do not pose a risk to human health. Maddaloni pointed out that the author, who assembled the experts, works for a PRP and, predictably, was arguing for a less stringent standard.

Another participant asked if the oral RfD for chromium is under examination. Cindy Sonich-Mullin said she would find out details of an upcoming conference that will deal with these issues. She agreed to provide information about the conference at the next RATS teleconference.

### **Dollars For Special Projects**

Pat Cirone (Region 10) recommended that the Regions devise an organized approach to claim some ORD research dollars for immediate Regional risk assessment needs. She explained that there are two pockets of research dollars: funds for long-term issue-based projects and money from Program Offices and the Regions used to augment ORD projects. Pat asked the Regions for volunteers to come up with a list of research priorities for their Region. The volunteers are:

Region 1	Ann Marie Burke
Region 2	Mark Maddaloni
Region 3	to be determined
Region 4	Elmer Akin
Region 5	Andrew Podowski
Region 6	Jon Rauscher
Region 7	Dave Crawford
Region 8	Chris Weis
Region 9	Dan Stralka
Region 10	Pat Cirone

Maggie Breville, the Superfund Technical Liaison in Region 2, urged RATS participants to work with the Liaison in their Region on the issue of ORD Augmentation — a large part of their work. The Liaisons report to both Headquarters and the Regions.

### **Concluding Remarks**

The second Wednesday of November is Veterans Day so next month's teleconference has been rescheduled. Conference lines have been reserved for Tuesday, November 10 from 12:30pm to 1:30pm. The call-in number for November is (202) 260-4292.